

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A head suspension assembly comprising:

an air bearing slider having at least one transducer mounted thereon for transducing data that is recorded and read out from a surface of a rotating magnetic disc;

a single piece of material comprising:

a load beam section formed with a narrowed end;

a flexure section having a shaped opening which defines two flexure beams that extend in a longitudinal direction from said narrowed end of said load beam section, said flexure section further including a transverse section spaced in said longitudinal direction from said load beam section, said transverse section connecting said flexure beams;

a load point tongue extending from said narrowed end of said load beam section into said shaped opening such that said flexure beams and load point tongue lie substantially in the same plane, said load point tongue being disposed substantially between said flexure beams and having a free end within said shaped opening, said load point tongue having a load supporting protrusion;

said air bearing slider being bonded to said transverse section and in contact with said load supporting protrusion.

2. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said air bearing slider has a top non-air bearing surface attached to said transverse section.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 2, wherein said air bearing slider is about 0.0110 inch high, 0.0400 inch long and 0.0200-0.0260 inch wide.

7. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 2, wherein said top non-air bearing surface is formed with a platform and a step adjacent to said platform.

8. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 7, wherein said platform is about 0.0336 inch long and said step is about 0.0015 inch high.

9. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said load beam section and said transverse section have a first thickness.

10. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 9, wherein said load supporting protrusion is hemispherical in shape.

11. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 9, wherein said flexure beams have a second thickness which is thinner than said first thickness.

12. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said flexure beams are substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction so that said shaped opening is substantially U-shaped.

13. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, wherein said load beam section has a rear end opposite said narrowed end, and further including:

a leaf spring section attached at a first end to said rear end of said load beam section, said leaf spring section providing a load force to said air bearing slider through said load supporting protrusion; and

a mount section attached to a second end of said leaf spring section for attachment to an actuator arm.

14. (Currently Amended) An assembly as in claim 1 43, wherein said load beam section has a rear end opposite said narrowed end and further including:
a leaf spring section attached at a first end to said rear end of said load beam section, said leaf spring section providing a load force to said air bearing slider through said load supporting protrusion;
a mount section attached to a second end of said leaf spring section for attachment to an actuator arm; and
a swage plate joined to said mount section for attachment to said actuator arm.

15. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said load beam section has first and second sides, at least one of said sides having a flange integral therewith.

16. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 15, wherein said flange comprises a channel which accommodates an electrical wire.

17. (Currently Amended) An assembly as in claim 1 43, wherein said load beam section has a rear end opposite said narrowed end and further including:
a leaf spring section attached at a first end to said rear end of said load beam section, said leaf spring section providing a load force to said air bearing slider through said load supporting protrusion, wherein said leaf spring section includes a trapezoidal-like opening; and
a mount section attached to a second end of said leaf spring section for attachment to an actuator arm.

18. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 1, wherein said load supporting protrusion is located along a centerline of said air bearing slider.

19. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, further including a damping element attached to said load beam section.

20. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 15, further including at least one load/unload tab formed on at least one of said sides of said load beam section.

21. (Original) An assembly as in claim 2, wherein said top non-air bearing surface is substantially flat.

22. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 21, wherein said transverse section including bent sections for attachment to said air bearing slider.

23. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 1 wherein said load point protrusion is offset a distance from a centerline extending between said flexure beams.

24. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 23 wherein said distance is greater than zero inches, but less than or equal to 0.006 inches.

Claims 25-35 (Canceled).